

6. Quilon
7. Pundur
8. Paravur
9. Thiruvalla
10. Pathinamthitta
11. Adoor
12. Pandalam
13. Kottayam
14. Changanacherry
15. Vaikom
16. Palai
17. Erathupetta
18. Thodupuzha
19. Piravam
20. Kalamassery
21. Eloor
22. Trichur
23. Irinjalakuda
24. Kunnamkulam
25. Chalakudy
26. Kodungallur

Development of Small and Medium Towns of Kerala

3426. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding the development of small and medium towns of Kerala is under consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The Centrally sponsored scheme of integrated development of small and medium towns is an on-going schemes started during the 6th Plan. Towns are selected for assistance under this scheme every year depending upon the budgetary allocations with the Govt. of India for this purpose and based on the list of prioritized towns received from the State Govts. alongwith detailed project reports of the schemes. Project reports for the towns have been received from Govt. of Kerala for the current year. Final decision on sanction of IDSMT schemes for the current year has not yet been taken.

Paraffin Wax Quota for Kerala

3427. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for increasing the Paraffin Wax Quota for Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The Government have been receiving representations from various States/UTs including Kerala for enhancement in allocation of Paraffin Wax from time to time. The allocation is made keeping in view the indigenous availability and imports. Besides normal quarterly allocation of Paraffin Wax to various states/UTs, this year

Government have made one time additional allocation of Paraffin Wax Type-III to all States/UTs during the quarter October-December, 1991. The share of Kerala State in the additional allotment of Paraffin Wax Type-III is 157 MTs.

[Translation]

Raising on Age Limit for Civil Services Examination

3428. SHRI SURESH ANAND SWAMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to raise the age limit for Civil Services Examination and also to remove the restriction on the number of attempts for appearing in this examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). The upper age limit for the Civil Services Examination is 28 years and the maximum number of attempts permitted at the examination is 4. However, for the 1992 examination it is proposed to fix the upper age limit at 33 years and the maximum number of attempts at 5, as a special case. This liberalisation will be admissible only for the 1992 Examination.

[English]

Extraction of Minerals from Indian Ocean

3429. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV:
SHRI DEVENDERA PRASAD
YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made of various minerals lying in the bed of the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to get a survey conducted about these minerals and to extract the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Pioneer Area, which is located about 1,600 km. from Cape Comorin in the Indian Ocean, measures 150,000 sq. km. of this, we have to surrender half to the International Authority. The remaining half measuring 75,000 sq. km. has an estimated potential of about 380 million tonnes of polymetallic nodules. These nodules are estimated to contain 3.5 million tonnes of Nickel, 3.2 million tonnes of Copper, 0.5 million tonnes of Cobalt and 72 million tonnes of Manganese.

(c) Survey and Exploration for polymetallic nodules is already under way. There is also a programme of developing a deep seabed test mining system which is being implemented by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, as the nodal Agency. The system would be progressively developed to a fully operational deep seabed mining system. Research and development on extractive metallurgy is also being conducted at the National Metallurgical Laboratory (Jamshedpur), Regional Research Laboratory (Bhubaneswar) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (Udaipur).

[Translation]

Pollution by Rawat Bhata Nuclear Power Plant

3430. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: